

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring funds in an online transaction between a first party and a second party, the method comprising steps of:
 - receiving payment information from the first party, the payment information including a payee identification;
 - determining a first account associated with the first party;
 - determining a second account associated with the second party, wherein at least one of the first account and the second account is a bank account;
 - providing a third account, the third account not associated with ~~the~~ either the first party or the second party, wherein the third account is a stored value account, the third account receiving credits from the first account and debits from the second account, wherein the store value account holds stored value funds;
 - initiating a first transfer from the first account to the third account;
 - ~~receiving notification, from the third account, that the first transfer has cleared;~~
 - receiving payee information from the second party, the payee information including the payee identification;
 - checking the payee identification received from the second party with the payment information; ~~[[and]]~~
 - if the payee identification received from the second party is the same as the payment information, initiating a second transfer from the third account to the second account, wherein initiating the second transfer occurs before ~~receiving the notification that the first transfer has cleared; and~~
 - if the payee identification received from the second party is not the same as the payment information, denying the second transfer from the third account to the second account.

2. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, wherein the first-listed and second-listed initiating steps occur as part of the same session with the automated clearinghouse (ACH) network.

3. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first initiating step and the second initiating step comprise a step of sending transfer information to the ACH network.

4. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, wherein both the first account and the second account are bank accounts.

5. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:
storing information on a plurality of accounts associated with the first party; and
receiving selection of the first account from the plurality of accounts.

6. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 4, further comprising steps of:
determining types of accounts acceptable to the second party as funds sources;
culling the plurality of accounts to present only account types acceptable to the second party; and
presenting the culled plurality of accounts to the first party.

7. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, wherein a first amount of the first transfer is larger than a second amount of the second transfer.

8. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, wherein first account information for the first account is not accessible to the second party.

9. (Previously Presented) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, deducting a service fee from a first amount of the first transfer to determine a second amount of the second transfer.

10. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 1, wherein the second-listed initiating step is automatically performed.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring funds in an online transaction between a first party and a second party, the method comprising steps of:
receiving payment information from the first party, the payment information;
determining a first account associated with the first party;
determining a second account associated with the second party;
providing a third account, the third account not associated with the either ~~the~~ first party or the second party, wherein the third account is a stored value account, the third account receiving credits from the first account and debits from the second account, wherein the store value account holds stored value funds;
initiating a first transfer from the first account to the third account, wherein initiating the first transfer comprises sending transfer information to the automated clearinghouse (ACH) network;
receiving notification, from the third account, that the first transfer has cleared;
and
initiating, substantially simultaneously with the first transfer, a second transfer from the third account to the second account, wherein initiating the second transfer occurs before

~~receiving notification that the first transfer has cleared, and~~ wherein the second transfer creates a
~~create reverse float.~~

13. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 12, wherein at least one of the first account and the second account is a bank account.

14. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 12, wherein both the first account and the second account are bank accounts.

15. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 12, wherein the first-listed and second-listed initiating steps occur substantially simultaneously.

16. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 12, further comprising steps of:
storing information on a plurality of accounts associated with the first party; and
receiving selection of the first account from the plurality of accounts.

17. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 16, further comprising steps of:
determining types of accounts acceptable to the second party as funds sources;
culling the plurality of accounts to present only account types acceptable to the second party; and
presenting the culled plurality of accounts to the first party.

18. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 12, wherein a first amount of the first transfer is larger than a second amount of the second transfer.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring funds in an online transaction between a first party and a second party, the method comprising steps of:

- storing information on a plurality of accounts associated with the first party;
- receiving payment information from the first party, the payment information including a payee identification;
- receiving selection of a first account from the plurality of accounts;
- determining a second account associated with the second party;
- providing a third account, the third account not associated with ~~the~~ either the first party or the second party, wherein the third account is a stored value account, the third account receiving credits from the first account and debits from the second account, wherein the store value account holds stored value funds;
- initiating a first transfer from the first account to the third account, wherein initiating the first transfer comprises sending transfer information to the automated clearinghouse (ACH) network;
- receiving notification, from the third account, that the first transfer has cleared;

and

- receiving payee information from the second party, the payee information including the payee identification;
- checking the payee identification received from the second party with the payment information; and
- if the payee identification received from the second party is the same as the payment information, initiating a second transfer from the third account to the second account, wherein initiating the second transfer occurs before ~~receiving notification that~~ the first transfer has cleared, wherein initiating the first transfer comprises sending transfer information to the automated clearinghouse (ACH) network;
- if the payee identification received from the second party is not the same as the payment information, denying the second transfer from the third account to the second account;

wherein, a first amount of the first transfer is larger than a second amount of the second transfer; and

wherein, the information on the plurality of accounts is not accessible to the second party.

21. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 20, further comprising steps of:
determining types of accounts acceptable to the second party as funds sources;
culling the plurality of accounts to present only account types acceptable by the second party; and
presenting the culled plurality of accounts to the first party.

22. (Original) The method for transferring funds in the online transaction between the first party and the second party as recited in claim 20, wherein authorization by the first party triggers automatic performance of the two initiating steps and the second-listed receiving step.